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The Indonesia Human Rights Campaign
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Mr Hans van den Broek,
Presidency of the European Community,
Den Haag

21 November 1991

Fax No: 010 31 70 3484848

Dear Mr van den Broek,

On Tuesday, 19 November, a number of East Timorese students visited the UN office in Jalan Thamrin, Jakarta to present a petition to the UN, setting out their demands about the future of their country. As they were making their way to several foreign embassies on Jalan Thamrin, they were stopped by armed troops of the Anti-Riot Squad [*Sabhara*] of the Police Force. Members of the squad beat the students (press photographs give witness to the severity of the police handling of the students) and drove them away in three police vehicles. Almost all the demonstrators were arrested. We believe that about 60 students, possible more, were taken into custody.

We have the names of 13 students now in custody: Avelino, Sergio, Francisco Cunha, Antonio, Egas Monteiro, Gregorio de Araujo, Agapito Cardosa, Joao, Jose Amorin, Joao, Joao Freitas de Camara, Jose Luis de Oliveira and Ilidio.

Efforts to discover their whereabouts have failed. We fear not only that they are being brutally maltreated during interrogation but that they may be returned to East Timor. If this were to happen, their lives could be in grave danger. As you know, since the 12 November massacre, there have been reports of persons in custody being killed by firing squad. TAPOL's report of the killing by firing-squad of around 80 persons on 15 November has now been confirmed by a foreigner who was in Dili at the time.

TAPOL appeals to you to make representations without delay to the Indonesian authorities regarding the fate of these students. We ask you to call for their immediate release. Could you please, through the Presidency of the European Community, ensure that the embassies of the Member States in Jakarta take action to protect the physical integrity of these students against maltreatment at the hands of the security forces. In particular, could you use the offices of the European Community to prevent the arrested students from being returned to East Timor.

Yours sincerely,

Carmel Budiardjo